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CUASCUAS	UA	SC	AS CU	SCUA
UASCUASC	AS	CU	SC UA	CUAS
AS CU	SC	UA	CU AS	UASCUA
SC UA	CU	AS	UA SC	AS UASCU
CUASCUAS	UASCUASC		ASCUASCU	SC SCUA
UASCUASC	ASCUASCU		SCUASCUA	CU UAS

THE CUAS SONG BOOK

Featuring CUAS' Greatest Hits 1973 - 1975

from the ever-resourceful pens and ever-warped minds of

THE HARD CORE OF CUAS

(WITH THE HELP OF CERTAIN OTHERS)

(acknowledging also the hindrance of many , many more)

TUNES ASSUMED OBVIOUS WHERE NOT STATED

For reasons of the corporate sanity this edition is not available outside the C.U.A.S.

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TO THOM AND GERRY

PART ONE : AN INTRODUCTORY POEM

Thorrowgoody

Composed on the occasion of some terrible vandalism, back in the days of aspiring chairmen and obs. secs. who looked at Saturn.

'Twas midnight, and the five-inch mount
Did wait and wobble in the breeze;
All empty was the South Annexe,
And the skyline hid by trees.

Beware the Thorrowgood, my son,
The wires and clamps and other things,
Beware the obs. sec's wrath, and shun
The planet Saturn's rings.

He took the eyepiece in his hand,
Long time the stubborn dome he fought,
Till rested he on the SEB
And stood awhile in thought.

But as he looked at Saturn's globe,
His mortal eye did wander some;
Rings A and B his eye did see
But Encke was there none.

One two, one two, and through and through
In bitter rage he yanked and rammed,
He left it dead, and went instead
To the Northumberland.

And hast thou slain the Thorrowgood?
You're not the first one so to do.
In that case, though, there can be no
Observer Card for you.

'Twas midnight, and the five-inch mount
Did wait and wobble in the breeze;
All empty was the South Annexe,
And the skyline hid by trees.

PART TWO : SONGS FROM THE OBS. BOOK

The CUAS Anthem (or 'An English Country Telescope')

A song of the earliest vintage composed on a very long cloudy night.

How many planets are there in the sky
That are seen with the CUAS telescopes?
I'll tell you now of those that I've known
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes:
 Of the planets you can see,
 Venus, Neptune, Mercury,
 Jupiter, Mars and Saturn with its rings,
 There's Uranus and Pluto and other minor things
 To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.

How many craters are there on the moon
That are seen with the CUAS telescopes?
I'll tell you now of some that I've known
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes:
 Kepler and Copernicus,
 Newton, Tycho, Clavius,
 Bailly, Gassendi and Archimedes too
 There are Plato, Herschel, Birt and Aristarchus
 To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.

How many bright stars are there in the sky
That are seen with the CUAS telescopes?
I'll tell you now of some that I've known
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes:
 Arcturus and Regulus,
 Spica, Algol, Sirius,
 Deneb and Altair, Vega, Fomalhaut,
 Castor, Pollux, Procyon, Rigel, Betelgeuz
 To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.

How many dim stars are there in the sky
That are seen with the CUAS telescopes?
I'll tell you now of some that I've known
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.
 Of the stars that you can see,
 Some are double, some are three,
 Spectroscopic binaries and variable stars,
 There are pulsars and novae which shrink into black holes
 To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.

(Contd.)

How many fuzzy patches are there in the sky
That are seen with the CUAS telescopes?
I'll tell you now of some that I've known
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes:

 Of the patches that one sees
 Globulars and planetaries,
Supernova remnants and HII nebulae,
There are spirals, Seyferts and other galaxies
To be seen with the CUAS telescopes.

(Slow, with feeling)

How many meteors are there in the sky
That are seen when the CUAS telescopes
Lie in their cradles awaiting their repairs?
Poor old CUAS telescopes!
 Quadrantids, Orionids,
 Lyrids, Taurids, Geminids,
Ursids, Perseids and Giacobinids;
Oh, this is fun, we could lie here all the night -
Poor old CUAS telescopes!

The Astronomer

For the other two songs describing everyday life in CUAS, see Part 3

I am an astronomer,
The heavens I behold,
I have squandered my night's sleep
For some eyefuls of photons
Such as meteors.
I try and guess,
Still, a man sees what he wants to see
And disregards the rest.

When I left my room and my gas fire
I came up to the Obs.,
To the company of lunatics
In the darkness of the N'land dome,
Shivering cold,
Laying low
Seeking out the clearer patches
Whence the ragged clouds do go,
Looking for the objects they would never show.

Lie-la-lie...

Asking only for a clear night
I come looking for a 'scope
But I get no offers,
Just a "come-in" from the others
In the South Annexe.

(Contd.)

I do declare,
There are times when all the scopes are used
I spend a while in there.

Lie-la-lie...

Then I'm shivering in my winter clothes
And wishing I was gone,
Cycling home
Where the early morning ground frosts
Are not freezing me,
Teasing me,
Cycling home.

On the lawn lies an astronomer,
An observer by his trade
And he carries the reminders
Of ev'ry night spent at the Obs.
Without sleep till he cried out
In his anger and his shame
"I am sleeping, I am leaving",
But the observer still remains.

Lie-la-lie...

Good King CUAS

Getting at ourselves for a change.

Good king chairman Clive looked out
On an occultation,
Thought that he had seen a fade,
But there came negation
From the V.S. chief who said
What had really happened
Was that trying to get the scope
He had put the cap on.

Good king Richard B. looked out
On the planet Saturn,
Said that he could see a spot,
Which he said was flattened.
Then he looked around the rings,
Saw ring B was double,
Wrote away to Alan Heath,
And caused a lot of trouble.

P.J.Y. looked out as well,
Thought he saw a nova.
What a shame he couldn't check,
'Cos it clouded over.
But that didn't stop the flow
Of his observations;
He sat inside the South Annexe
And made his estimations.

On the groundsheet on the lawn,
Many folks were flattened,
They would fall asleep till dawn,
But there spirits dampened
When the Meteor Section head
Came out full of sorrow;
He said "You can go to bed -
'Cos the shower's tomorrow!"

The Comet's Tale

Recalling the days when CUAS put the national and local press to rights
about a certain comet.

When Kohoutek first saw his smudge of light
We thought "it's just because he's been awake all night",
But Kohoutek persisted saying it would be bright.
Read all about it! and I.A.U. opine
It might be better than mag. minus nine.
Floreat CUAS! For we're the ones to see
The feeblest comet of the century.

October comes, and diligence we seek
As from behind the sun it should begin to peek,
But nothing's to be seen at all week after week.
Then one fine morning, the faintest slightest glow,
Its brightness is two magnitudes too low.
Floreat CUAS! For we're the ones to see
The feeblest comet of the century.

At that we leap out from our beds as one
On freezing nights to see this rare phenomenon;
The great meteor director streaming into the sun.
Read all about it! We're filling up the book
With blanks reserved for how it should have looked.
Floreat CUAS! For we're the ones to see
The feeblest comet of the century.

The Secretary champs at the lodge till dawn,
The obs. sec. curls up in his lens, trying to keep warm;
The rest admire the broad pink clouds from on the lawn.
Read all about it! The Observer magazine
Thinks with the naked eye it's easily seen.
Floreat CUAS! For we're the ones to see
The feeblest comet of the century.

So bold Sir CUAS mounts his noble steed,
And rides away to fight those who grossly mislead
The poor benighted public who believe what they read.
But read all about it! The Cambridge Evening News
Thinks CUAS hasn't found it yet whatever we use.
Floreat CUAS! For we're the ones to see
The feeblest comet of the century.

And so we'll all be back in January
To view the fabled comet of the century:
Mag. four by night, by day impossible to see.
Read all about it! But don't believe a thing -
Rather hear what we of CUAS sing:
FLOREAT CUAS! FOR WE'RE THE ONES TO SEE
THE FEEBLEST COMET OF THE CENTURY!!

PART THREE : SONGS FROM EXPEDITIONS

The Fireball Song

This and the next song evolved during the first (1973) megaliths expedition. Note recourse to songs about everyday(?) life in CUAS; note also the change of emphasis during the later megaliths expedition!

On top of South Annexe
Surrounded by trees,
I saw my first fireball
It made me so pleased.

Its colour was purple,
Its train it was gold,
My friends, this great fireball
'Twas a joy to behold.

(Contd.)

It started in Cygnus
And ended in Cass.,
And then my poor fireball
Exploded in gas.

It shot through the heavens,
It lit up the night,
This massive great fireball
My God it was bright!

The V.S. observers
All scattered in awe,
They gave it mag. minus
Ten point three two four.

I saw all the pieces
Fall down through the sky,
And all of these meteors
Were close on mag. five.

We had a great quarrel,
The others and me,
'Cos they said the meteors
Were all of mag. three.

We plotted positions
In front of the stars,
And found that my fireball
Came out of the

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s.

Messing About in the Annexe

When the skies are all grey
There's no finer place
Than messing about in the annexe.
When Young's on the scope
You haven't a hope, so go
Messing about in the annexe.

There's Norton's and Sidgwick
And Coeli and Moore,
And the atlas by Wilkins
In a case by the door,
So take my advice,
There's nothing so nice
As messing about in the annexe.

There's coffee and tea,
And you can feel free
To drink some with me
In the annexe.
The water is borne
From a tap on the lawn
And is boiled on the ring
In the annexe.

There's a fire in the corner
That we light when it's cold,
And a coat on the door
That is ever so old,
So take my advice,
There's nothing so nice
As messing about in the annexe.

There are section reports
On the walls and the door
And the windows and floor
Of the annexe.

There are planetary blanks
For which we give thanks
To the obs. sec. who lives
In the annexe.

There's the obs. book on the table
In the corner on view
Which we all write our notes in
And poetry too;
So take my advice,
There's nothing so nice
As messing about in the annexe.

Silent Night

A small ditty composed in the depths of Norfolk on a meteor triangulation expedition to pass the time under the clouds. Meanwhile the other lot were hard at work in beautiful conditions at the Obs.

Silent night,
Cloudy night,
Not a meteor is in sight.
How much more do we have to wait?
I'm quite sure this is not right.
Why don't we go home?
Why don't we go home.

Herstmonceusalem

Composed on the coach coming back, to describe the day's activities and because we thought we had to compose something. A great corporate effort! (The next year's Jodrell expedition passed without even a song, boring lot)

And did those feet of CUAS bold
Wend their way to the R.G.O.?
And did they see the P.Z.T.,
And round the time department go?
 And did the telescopes define
 An eyesore on those clouded hills?
And was the I.N.T. builded here,
With all Grubb-Parsons' mighty skills?

Bring me my flask of Merrydown,
Bring me my arrows for the pub,
Bring me our songs to sing on the coach,
And Tunbridge Wells to stop for grub.
 We shan't forget the R.G.O.,
 Nor shall our songs be ended soon,
Till we have built a rocket ship
And landed CUAS on the moon.

Little Menhirs

The first of many songs composed on the 1975 megaliths expedition, providing a brief, unbiased introduction to megalithic astronomy.

Little menhirs on the hillside
Little menhirs made of lumps of granite
And they're all flat and rectangular
And they're all set out in rows,
And they all point to the notches
Where the sun sets at midsummertime
And to other little menhirs
Where the midwinter moon goes.

Professor Thom goes to the menhirs
And wields his theodolite,
And they all point to the moon lines
And they all point just the same,
From one side to the top limb
And the other side to the bottom limb
Where it twinkles down every nineteen years
When it comes down just the same.

There are circles and ellipses
And flattened rings and oval ones,
And they're all made up of yards and rods
And halves and quarters too,
And they're all based on Pythagoras,
And if not, they're approximate -
The geometry may seem ridiculous
But it will just have to do.

The Megaliths Anthem

To the tune of 'Love's Old Sweet Song' which most grandmothers will know.

Just a chance alignment
Where the moon went down,
Must have been a notch there
Before they built the town.

Epsilon plus delta
Minus I plus S
In B.C. 2000,
Well, more or less,
Well, more or less.

From the Gothic Guildhall
In a line they say
To the war memorial
Runs the ancient ley;
Over Roman sewers
Where the rats run free,
There Penelope Smythe
Has vorticity, (1)
Has vorticity.

Where the Cambridge bypass
Meets the 603
There's a great big circle,
Flattened ring type B. (2)
Take its width and square it,
Multiply by three,
This gives Alex Thom
In Hindustani, (3)
In Hindustani.

Notes (1) We are indebted to someone at Earlston who described how a girl (whose name might have been Penelope Smythe) experienced "vorticity" when standing at the junctions of ley lines
(2) In fact it isn't but never mind
(3) For this idea we are indebted to the man at the Rollright stone who related their diameter to the name Iesos Christos in Greek.

Goodbye to Thom

Composed in the washroom (washroom??) at Laxdale campsite, Lewis, around 1 a.m. after a hard day.

We'll say goodbye to Thom,
There are no alignments at this lousy site,
Time and time again
We've measured altitudes and azimuths
And all we get are random points and notches;
We just can't match his lunar lines.
Where he gets those lines from is a mystery to us all,
His methods are all dubious,
His sums are up the wall,
From today we're on our own now,
We'll let Sandy's theories fall.
We'll say goodbye to Thom.

The Magic Dragon OR 'I hate Harris when it's raining,
I hate Harris when it's Rolf'

Describing the adventures of Roger's mighty petrol burner, or 'dragon' as it soon became known.

Two of our group were making some soup,
Each had a wooden spoon,
Gayly they stirred, my how absurd,
"It will be ready soon".
But then these chaps they had a mishap,
Ran out of gas to heat,
Wept for their food, but cried anew
When Roger said "Wait!"
I think you can use my dragon here,
If you don't mind the walls of flame,
Stand well back if you have your senses,
It'll cook food and you the same".
I am covered in scars and blisters,
Perhaps it's my life of sin,
But I think it's because I once used
The dragon to cook our din.

PART FOUR : THE CONSTITUTION

Name and Objects of the Society

(Clauses 1 & 2)

To the tune of the Song of Joy (Beethoven's 9th). Recommended to chairmen as a way of learning the first clauses of the constitution. Underline indicates syllable corresponding to first beat of bar; singers are advised to fit the rest in as best they can.

The name of the Society shall be the Cambridge University Astronomical Society. The Objects of the Society: The Society exists to provide for and to encourage as wide an interest as possible in astronomy among members of the University.
-niversity, among members of the University.

The Committee

(Part of Clause 5)

To the tune of 'I was born under a wandering star'. Underline indicates first beat of bar, as above.

The affairs of the Society
The affairs of the Society
shall be managed by a committee
hereinafter referred to as the Full Committee,
el- ected from members of the Society,
and of the following composition:

A Senior Committee consisting
of two or more members of M.A. status: viz.,
one President and one Senior Treasurer,
together with such Vice-Presidents as may be elected.

An Executive Committee consisting of not less than five and not more than eight members below the status of M.A.
and including a Chair- man,
a Secretary and a Treasurer.

CUAS in the Woods

(Clauses 6,7,8 & 9(except last sentence)).

To the tune of the 2nd movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony.
Underline indicates first beat of bar, as before; / indicates new theme;
= indicates first beat with no word.

(Silent during fanfare)

4/4 At Ordinary Committee Meetings a quorum shall consist
of not less than five members of the Executive Committee
unless the total membership of that body
is five or six, when four shall suffice.
At Full Committee Meetings a quorum shall consist
of, in addition to the above, one member of the Senior Committee,
or a deputy of such a member.

(silent during fanfare)

/A Full Committee Meeting, hereinafter referred to as the
Annual Full Committee Meeting, shall be held shortly before the
Annual General Meeting. All decisions at
all Committee Meetings, except as hereinafter specified, shall
be by a simple majority.

/If a Full Committee Meeting is convened during an
Ordinary Committee Meeting to consider a decision made thereat,
such decision shall not be implemented
until it has received the approval of a Full Committee Meeting.
-received the approval of a Full Committee Meeting.
-received the approval of a Full Committee Meeting.
-Full Committee Meeting.

/Committee Meetings = may be convened by the President = or the
Senior Treasurer or the Chairman or by
any two members of the Committee acting together.
All resident members = of the Full Committee shall
= be given at least five days notice
= of all Committee Meetings.

/The subscription of the Society = shall = be = fixed by a
Full Committee Meeting. =

No change shall be implemented until the approval of the Society
has been expressed by simple majority at any Meeting of the Society.

/If a vacancy occur = in the Senior Committee or if

= it is desired to elect a Vice-President,
an Ordinary Committee Meeting

shall recommend a person for election

(by a simple majority = in the case of the
President or Senior Treasurer; = by a two-thirds majority
= in the case of a Vice-President);

such recommendation shall be placed before the next Meeting
of the Society for approval by a simple majority.

/Members of the Executive Committee = including the Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. = If a vacancy arise for an Officer a Full Committee Meeting shall elect a member of the Executive Committee to that Office, except when the President = shall consider the appointment of a new Officer = a matter of urgency /in which case he, in consultation with such members of the Committee as he may consider are conveniently available, shall make the appointment. In the event of the President being unable to act, the Senior Treasurer, or failing him a Vice-President shall act in his place. Any other vacancy on the Executive Committee may be filled either by co-option or by election.

2/4

4/4

either by co-option or by election.
Any Ordinary Committee Meeting may decide by a two-thirds majority to co-opt a member to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee subject to confirmation by a majority vote at the next Meeting of the Society.

/An Ordinary Committee Meeting may decide to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee by election at any Meeting of the Society. The rules for nomination shall be those which obtain (rest) at (rest) the Annual General Meeting.

Members of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by a simple majority at an Ordinary Committee Meeting.

Members of the Senior Committee shall retain their position for life, and members of the Executive and Advisory Committees shall retain their position until the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting following their election or co-option.

/Any Committee Member may, however, resign at any time.

Powers of the Committee

(Clauses 11(i) (slightly altered), 11(ii), and 11(iv) (part).)

To the tune of 'Teddy Bears' Picnic'
Underline and = as before.

A Full Committee Meeting is the final authority within the Society except in cases of serious dispute. It shall have the power to refuse Society membership to any person or to require a member to resign.

A Full Committee Meeting =
is ipso facto an Ordinary Committee Meeting. =
Ordinary Committee Meetings =
Are responsible for the running of = the Society
in carrying out the objects ~~XXXXX~~ =
thereof in a manner which they deem appropriate. =
An Ordinary Committee Meeting may delegate any or all of its powers,
except those of clauses 9 and 11(iv).

Duties of the Chairman.

(Clause 12 (except last phrase).)

To the tune of 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.
Underline as before.

The Chairman shall preside at all Meetings
of the Society and Committee.
If he is XXXXX unab-le
to attend he shall appoint a deputy.
In the absence of a decision to the contrary,
The Chairman shall possess =
all the powers of an Ordinary Committee Meeting,
except those of clauses 9 and eleven (iv). =

Special Detachable Appendix

PART FIVE : THE SONGS DISCLAIMED BY ALL

Featuring the Worst Songs of all -
all of which seem to be engendered by the same well-known tune

Mark One

Ever since the time of Challis
We've been peering up tubes
From Herstmonceux to Paris
We must have focused them all.

Mark Two

Since Challis discovered a nova
We've been peering up tubes
We've discovered not a single quasar
But have frequently got slewed,
Yet before you shout hoorah
Just bear this thought in mind
These followers of the Sizar
Sure are bloody well blind.

Thommy

Ever since he was a young boy
He's studied menhirs tall
From Orkney down to Dartmoor
He must have done them all,
But although he's getting on now
He still finds time to scrawl,
The dear ex-Professor
Sure tells a story tall.

K&WXX&XXXI

Thought I was the menhir king
But I've just handed my theodolite to him.
How do you think he does it? I don't know
What makes him so old?

(Contd.)

He ain't got no distractions
He's got all his time to play,
If no-one else will listen
He goes to J.H.A.,
And when it's time for Carnac
He goes with all his kin,
He doesn't trust the others
Like Gerald or Glyn.